

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice, disclaimer, or waiver; and claims 21-40 are added. Claims 21-40 are now pending in the present application.

I. Response to Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the disclosure because of minor informalities. In response thereto, the specification has been amended herein according to the Examiner's suggestions.

II. Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Santos-Gomez* (U.S. Patent App. No. 2003/0065705) in view of *Angiulo et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,304). In addition, claims 6, 14, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Santos-Gomez* in view of *Angiulo et al.* and Applicant's Admission as to Prior Art.

Since claims 1-20 have been canceled by amendment herein, these rejections have been rendered moot. Regarding newly-added claims 21-40, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because the combination of prior art references fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claims.

III. New Claims

Claims 21-40 have been newly added to more clearly define the claims and to clarify the scope of the invention. Applicant asserts that the new claims are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons.

Each one of independent claims 21, 31, and 35 includes "*determining when a first previously completed step... has been selected again.*" The combination of references does not teach or suggest this claimed feature. Although *Santos-Gomez* apparently teaches a plurality of component tasks 108 collectively making up a high-level task, this reference fails to further describe a process of determining when a previously completed step has been selected again.

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the two original drawing sheet(s) showing Figs. 12-14 with the newly-submitted replacement sheets attached herewith. Please note that Fig. 12 has been amended to include the reference numeral "1200", which is used to represent the system as described on pages 19-20 of the specification. Also, Fig. 13 has been amended to include additional lead lines from reference numeral "1304" to the "pins" as described on p. 20. In Fig. 14, reference numeral "1303" has been changed to "1306" to maintain consistency with Fig. 13 and the specification. Also in Fig. 14, additional lead lines and reference numeral "1300" have been added for clarification.

Regarding *Angiulo et al.*, this reference, first of all, does not disclose the general concept of selectable objects being displayed on a graphical user interface in which each object corresponds to a step in a sequential process, as claimed. Instead, this reference merely displays a list of “choices” and, based on a selected choice, subsequent choices can be made. This process merely involves picking and choosing, and does not relate to enabling a user to complete steps in a sequential process. Therefore, although *Angiulo et al.* appears to allow a user to select and change a selection previously made, which affects the selections available “downstream”, it is clear that this reference does not determine when a previously completed step is selected again.

Furthermore, the independent claims each recite ***“enabling the user to change the first previously completed step.”*** Again, the prior art fails to teach or suggest this feature. *Santos-Gomez* does not disclose returning to a previously completed step and *Angiulo et al.* does not disclose changing a step, but appears instead to allow changing a selection.

Claims 21, 31, and 35 also recites ***“in response to the first previously completed step being successfully completed again, determining whether a second previously completed step corresponding to another object is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step.”*** *Santos-Gomez* does not disclose completing steps a second time or whether a completed step is dependent on changes made to a previously completed step. *Angiulo et al.* fails to disclose completing a step again, or even completing a step a first time, for that matter. *Angiulo et al.* also fails to disclose one step being dependent on changes made to another step.

Finally, independent claims 21, 31, and 35 further recites ***“when the second previously completed step is dependent on the changes made in the first previously completed step, visually distinguishing the object corresponding to the second previously completed step to indicate that the second previously completed step is to be completed again.”*** *Santos-Gomez* fails to teach or suggest this aspect of the claims, and does not disclose repeating steps or giving a visual indication that a second previously completed step is to be completed again. *Angiulo et al.* also fails to teach or suggest this aspect of the claims, and furthermore does not disclose completing steps, steps dependent on changes made in other steps, objects

corresponding to steps, or visually distinguishing an object corresponding to a second completed step to indicate that the second step is to be completed again.

For at least the reasons stated above, it is believed that claims 21, 31, and 35 are allowable over the prior art of record. Also, claims 22-30, 32-34, and 36-40 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims 21, 31, and 35.

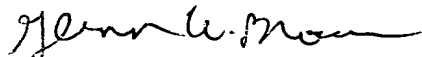
IV. Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but it is believed that the references do not affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. Also, an Information Disclosure Statement, listing newly discovered references, is filed herewith. However, it is believed that these references too do not affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

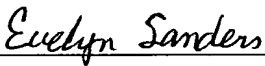
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 21-40 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 01/11/2005.



Signature -

Enclosures: Replacement Sheets for Figs. 12-14